



The AMA History Project Presents: Biography of IRVIL (IRV) L. SEARL

September 30th, 1929-July 16, 2011 AMA #10941



Written and Submitted by GST; Reformatted and edited by JS

*The following was written and submitted to the AMA History Project in 2013 by Irv Searl's wife,
Gayle S. Taylor.*

Biography of Irvin L. Searl (September 30th, 1929-July 16, 2011)



**AMA Number: 10941
IMAA: 11153**

Irv Searl was a man of many avocations and became quite consumed with whatever hobby took his interest. First and foremost, he enjoyed a lifelong love affair with building and flying model airplanes.

This passion began when he was 5 years old and his first models were constructed from rubber bands and balsa wood. In his own words, he described why building and flying model airplanes held his interest throughout his life, "It's exhilarating ...it's a challenge. There's a mystique for people ...seeing it flying!" For his family and friends, he was fondly referred to as "Ace" for most of his life. He was considered one of the nation's foremost radio-controlled model aircraft builders

AMA Activities

1946-1960: Irv first joined the AMA in Chicago in 1946. Most of this time was spent at sea with his naval career. Planes built during this period: DC 3, Boeing F4B Biplane, Beech Staggerwing, Free Flight Bee, Control Line Nobler.

1960-1963: Became an active member of the San Diego RC Club.

1963-1967: At sea with Navy career.

1968-1980: Irv retired from the Navy and was able to pursue his avocation for building and flying airplanes. He became an involved and dedicated member of the SNHRC Club, Nashua, NH; Concord Aero Guidance Society (CAGS); and the 495th Aero Squadron. Irv was active in all club activities and served in a variety of officer roles for several terms. Planes built during this period: Nieuport 11 (1/5), Nieuport 17 (1/5), Stearman (1/5), Pitts 5-1 (1/5), Chipmunk (1/5), Miss Norway, Curare, Brushmaster, Phoenix, Aeromaster Biplane (4), Andrew's A-Ray, H-Ray.

1982-2011: Planes built - Ryan STA (1/5, X-3), Bucker Jungmeister (1/4), Mustang P- 51 (1/5), At-6 (1/5), Christian Eagle (1/3), CAP 21 (1/4), Stinson Reliant (1/4), Eindecker (1/4), Nieuport 28 (1/4), Pitts S-2 (1/3), Jenny JN-4 (1/6), Pitts Python (1/3).

AMA Officer Positions and Honors

1980-2009: AMA Scale Board Member

1982-1986: AMA Scale Board Chairman

2008: AMA District 1 Lifetime Achievement Award

2012: AMA Distinguished Service Award - awarded posthumously

Leadership Positions

Irv was an involved and dedicated member of the SNHRC Club, Nashua, NH; Concord Aero Guidance Society (CAGS); and the 495th Aero Squadron. Irv was active in all club activities and served in a variety of officer roles for several terms.

Notable Competitions

1948: Control Line Nationals (Illinois)

1972-1980: Scale and Pattern Contests throughout New England

1980, 1982, 1992-1993, 1998: AMA Scale Nationals

1983, 1985, 1987, 1989: Master's Qualifier and Finals

1993-1996: Top Gun

1975-1997: WRAMS

Significant Awards

1974: NERCM Scale Championships, 1st place, Nieuport 17

1975: Empire State Scale Championships, 2nd place, Nieuport 11

1976: New England Scale Championships, 2nd place, Chipmunk

1992: AMA Nationals Precision Scale, 1st Place, Ryan STA

1993: AMA Nationals Precision Scale, 2nd Place, Ryan STA

1997: WRAMS, 1st Place WWI scale, Jenny JN4



Irv with his Aeromaster.



Nieuport 17



Searl family at Jungmeister Nationals.



Jenny JN4



Irv Searl



Chipmunk



Ryan

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